

TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS



April/May 2019

Issue 46

A Message from Rev Graham Horsley

Have you ever volunteered for something and then regretted it? It seemed like a great idea at the time - the reality turned out to be much harder.

I suspect the disciples felt like that as Holy Week unfolded. It had been easy a couple of weeks earlier to say – we'll follow you anywhere. It had been great when the crowds welcomed Jesus with cheers and palms waving. By Maundy Thursday Jesus was making it abundantly clear that the powers that be were out to kill him and this time he was willing to allow them to go through with it. In the Garden of Gethsemane, they realised both the pressure Jesus was under and their own frailty as they drifted off to sleep and were not there when he most needed them. They either ran away or worse, betrayed him, so he died almost alone.

Of course we all know the story has an unexpected ending – on the first Easter Day, Jesus rose from death and ascended to heaven in glory, but let us set that aside for a moment and think of the disciples emotions on Thursday, Friday and Saturday of Holy Week. I wonder how many of them wished they'd not heard Jesus saying 'follow me' three years earlier? I wonder how many of them regretted their own weakness in not staying with Jesus to the end – whatever the cost? I wonder how many of them felt uncertain, lost and bewildered – they'd left everything to follow Jesus – what could they do now?

Could it be that the Church in Britain is in a situation quite similar to that of the first disciples at the end of Holy Week? Despite our best efforts, the gap between Church and culture seems to be widening and whatever we do to persuade people to join us doesn't seem to work. Are we wrestling with doubts – could we possibly have made a mistake when we decided to follow Jesus? Are we very conscious of our own frailties and wondering if it's our fault the church is declining? If this is where we find ourselves, then it is also true that God hasn't finished with us yet! Ours is a resurrection faith!!

A group of us from Trinity have been meeting through Lent to explore what it means to be a Mission Shaped Church. To imagine new forms of church that will meet the spiritual needs of people who will never join traditional Church (no matter how good it is). The working title of what became the Mission Shaped Church report that started the Fresh Expressions movement was 'Dying to Live' – the Church of England Bishop's Council felt that a report about the state of the Church that began with the word 'Dying' might be a public relations disaster so it was changed.

How can we as a group of believers get to the place where we are willing to 'Die to Live'? What sort of Church will grow out of that process? We are all frail, imperfect people who fail God often – the Good News is he knows that, he loves us and he has a resurrection in mind!

Graham Horsley

*In addition to the Lent Course (see page 5) Graham will be leading our services on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.
[Ed.]*

Dates for your diary

(See page 33 for regular weekly and monthly activities)

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| April 2 nd | Lent Course at 7.30pm – see page 5 |
| April 7 th | General Church Meeting
<i>(after morning service)</i> |
| April 9 th | Lent Course at 7.30pm – see page 5 |
| April 14 th | Neighbourhood Tea Party, 4-6pm |
| April 18 th | Maundy Thursday – Tenebrae Service
at 8pm |
| April 19 th | Good Friday – a reflective service at
10am before the Act of Witness in the
Town Square |
| April 21 st | Easter Day – 10.30am service with
Holy Communion |
| May 11 th | Plant Sale to support Christian Aid |
| May 12 th –
18 th | Christian Aid Week |
| May 26 th | Early Communion at 8.45am |
| May 26 th | District Probationers Service at
Trinity at 6.30pm |
| September
5 th | Welcome Service for Rev Gillian Le
Boutillier Scott at 7.30pm |

Congratulations.....



In recent weeks we have been delighted to welcome in to the church by Baptism: **Niall Isaac Marshall McMahon-Loome** born on 23rd September 2018 and **Eva Livia Riva Stokes** born on 3rd March 2017.

Our warmest congratulations and best wishes to **Joyce & John Nelson** who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 5th April.





On Saturday 16th February a large congregation made up of family, friends and Trinity folk was honoured to witness the wedding of **Claire Bowerman to Aled Williams**.

Congratulations to them and their families and very best wishes for a long and happy marriage.

Lent Study Course



growing church
freshexpressions.org.uk/journey

- Listen
- Love and serve
- Build community
- Disciple
- Form church
- Repeat



us for the remaining two:

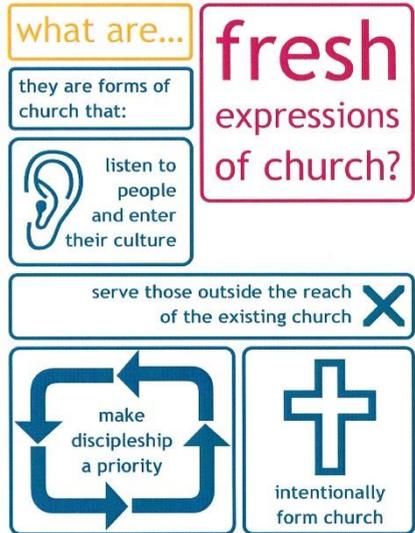
April 2nd
Discipleship, leadership and mixed economy

April 9th
Where do we go from here?

The sessions start at 7.30pm and last about 90 minutes.

Through Lent on each Tuesday evening we have been sharing a thought-provoking discussion led by Graham Horsley, the Methodist Connexional Fresh Expressions Missioner and following the course entitled *mission shaped into 2 (msi2)*.

If you have not attended the earlier sessions do try to join



fresh expressions freshexpressions.org.uk

"Church is what happens to two or three people when Jesus turns up" [Rowan Williams]



Trinity has a vacancy for a Librarian

The main tasks are:-

- Keeping the shelves tidy
- Keeping the books in their categories

If you think this could be the
job for you please see
Jean Normington

Frank Thompson

Frank Thompson, one of our long-standing members died on 6th February. Prior to a private cremation a thanksgiving service was held at Trinity on 18th February attended by a number of Trinity members, neighbours and friends. Frank was 93. We heard from his son Gerard that throughout his life Frank, a quiet unassuming man, was very practical and realistic, not given to sentimentality or false emotion, traits he had perhaps honed during his wartime service in the Royal Navy. Frank had a sharp mind and as a young man had attended Oxford University where he was tutored by C.S. Lewis. He was steadfast in his support to people in need and in particular to his wife Ita whom he nursed through her long physical decline prior to her death some 20 years ago.



John Craig spoke of Frank's long and loyal service to Trinity and the local community. Among other things he served as Church Treasurer, Communion Steward and Sunday School Treasurer. He co-founded, and worked on, the Woking Churches Rent Guarantee Scheme and was an exemplary treasurer of a local housing association. For a time he was the treasurer of at least six organisations. At the same time he helped individuals with anything from financial advice to cutting their grass.

Finally, Rev Allan Taylor reminded us of the words of Micah: *"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."* Frank was a man in whom these words were amply fulfilled. Allan spoke

of the assurance of eternal life that we have through the Holy Spirit; that in our earthly lives we are mere shadows of what is to come. He ended by quoting from the words of a hymn attributed to Thomas a Kempis:

*"O how glorious and resplendent,
Fragile body, shalt thou be,
When endued with so much beauty.
Full of health, and strong, and free,
Full of vigour, full of pleasure
That shall last eternally."*

Rev John Hellyer who has been Chair of the South East District since its formation in 2006 will be moving to become Superintendent of the Gloucestershire Circuit in September. A farewell service is to be held at Redhill Methodist Church on Sunday 7th July at 6.30pm (tea from 4.30pm). His replacement is to be **Rev David Hinchliffe**, remembered at Trinity as a former Superintendent Minister in the Woking & Walton Circuit and currently Chair of the Channel Islands District. A welcome service for David is to be held at Redhill on Thursday 29th August at 7pm.

Rev Conrad Hicks, Assistant Chair for the Western Area of the District, is also moving on, to an appointment in Methodist Church House. A farewell service for Conrad is to be held at The Spire Church, Farnham (Methodist Building) on Sunday 14th July at 6.30pm.

A prayer for Christchurch, New Zealand

God of peace, we pray for those caught up in the events in New Zealand, for those killed and wounded, and for those who will mourn. We pray for the people of the emergency services as they respond, and for community leaders and faith leaders as they work to heal broken communities. Soften the hearts of those who are motivated by hate and bring peace to your precious people of New Zealand. In Christ's name. Amen

***Michaela Youngson, President of Conference
March 2019***

Reminder about Intercession Book

The intercession book is available on the bookshelf in the front entrance so that people can write in details of people that they would like included in the intercession prayers during Sunday morning worship. Details can be something like a first name and a comment such as they are recovering at home after an operation for example.

If you want to have prayers said for someone within our Sunday worship do make sure you have their permission to do this. Please ask a steward for help if this is needed so that your prayers can be included in the worship.

Thank you - Ann

Charities

Here is a summary of the amounts raised for our monthly refreshment charities and other collections in recent months.

November 2018	Woking Street Angels	£100.00
December + Christmas collections	All We Can	£390.90
Christingle + Carol Services	Action for Children	£221.85
January 2019	SOS Children's Villages (for Ethiopia)	£133.75
February	RNLI	£100.00

The charities we are supporting during April, May and June are:

April - Christian Blind Mission

CBM is an international Christian disability and development organisation, transforming the lives of disabled people in the world's poorest communities.



Driven by Christian values, it works with disabled people to break down barriers by delivering practical support, improving policy and practice and inspiring the people of the UK to act. CBM UK is part of the global CBM Federation, working in over 60 countries to transform the lives of people with disabilities, their families and communities.

CBM tackles poverty, prevents blindness, improves health and changes the lives of disabled people. CBM has:

- Protected 23 million people from blinding diseases

- Enabled 39,008 children with disabilities to go to school
- Restored sight to 413,468 people through cataract surgery

May – Christian Aid



Christian Aid expresses its aim as follows: *"We stand together for dignity. For equality. For justice. Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty still persists. Poverty is an outrage against humanity.*

It robs people of their dignity and lets injustice thrive. But together we have the power to transform lives.

For over 70 years, we've been standing with the poorest of our neighbours. We work in 37 countries, with people of all faiths and none, to stand up for dignity, equality and justice. Together with our supporters and partners, we aim:

- *to expose poverty throughout the world*
- *to help in practical ways to end it*
- *to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised."*

In 2018 57,000 people took part to help raise £8 millions to help fight poverty during Christian Aid week. **[See page 26 for an extended item about Christian Aid Week.]**



Our annual plant sale in support of Christian Aid will be held on **Saturday 11th May**. There's still time to sow a few extra seeds to contribute to it if you have not already done so!

June - Neurofund Appeal

Patron, The Baroness Greenfield wrote: *"Nothing could be more important than finding ways to treat and cure those who suffer from brain injury or disease. That is why I commend the Neurofund Appeal - a new way of giving to the work of the Neurosciences Research Foundation. All of the research that Neurofund supports is patient centred. Every penny you donate to Neurofund goes to helping us to know more - and so do more to help those who need it most. Please join me in supporting this truly worthy cause in whatever way you can."*



One of the four key elements of 'Our calling' (see page 32) is to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice. There are many calls on our prayers and on our giving. At the time of going to print there is an emerging natural disaster following the cyclone that has hit south east Africa (in particular Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe).

All We Can, the Methodist relief and development agency, has set up an emergency appeal to support the people of Malawi in the wake of this terrible calamity. This is in addition to their Lent Appeal which is also coincidentally focused on Malawi. Three other current appeals are to support work in Syria, with the Rohingya refugees, and in Indonesia following the earthquake and tsunami last year.



To find out more visit www.allwecan.org.uk

Circuit Mission Supper

Trinity Methodist Church was again the venue for the annual Wey Valley Circuit Mission Supper. On Saturday 23rd February the Sanctuary was transformed into a banqueting hall and around 160 people from all the churches in the circuit sat down to a lovely 2-course meal. Apart from good food and good company, we had the privilege of listening to Rev. Mike Long, our guest speaker for the evening. Mike, a former Minister at Trinity, is well known to many in the circuit, so was welcomed both as a friend as well as someone who has been profoundly involved with the community in Notting Hill affected by the tragedy of the Grenfell Tower fire.

Mike moved from his previous posting in Haringey to Notting Hill Methodist Church in April 2017, so was very new to the area when the fire at Grenfell Tower happened on 14th June 2017. His church was just a few hundred metres away from the tower block. In the immediate aftermath of the fire, the church was inaccessible behind the police cordon, but as soon as he was able to access the building, the doors were opened to anyone that needed support, refuge or a place to come and offer help. People needed somewhere to go – the church became one of those places.



Mike explained that this was an unprecedented event with no rulebook or guidelines to follow – all one initially could do was to respond to each person who arrived and each situation as it happened. As the church was so centrally

placed, it very quickly became a focus of the relief operation and almost immediately donations started to arrive of food, water and clothing to meet the basic and immediate needs of those affected by the fire. The donations continued, with all manner of goods and items given by members of the local community and further afield, who simply wanted to help in whatever way they could. In those first few days Mike described a somewhat confused and chaotic scene with individuals, community groups and external agencies all trying to help but with no overall structure and no clear leadership or coordinating role in place. The needs were immense and overwhelming. Many had lost their lives. Many others faced a terrible time of uncertainty, not knowing whether friends and family had survived, were injured or where they were. Others were now homeless, having lost everything. In the chaos, practical decisions soon had to be made about how to accommodate and manage the donations constantly arriving, how to support those in the local community and liaise with the emergency services and Local Authority. Dealing with the Press, whilst protecting grieving and vulnerable people from press intrusion, and many other minute by minute decisions and encounters had to be dealt with – an exhausting process. Mike very much saw the role of the church as enabling others to do what needed to be done and so provided the space and resources for this to happen.

As a recognisable church leader, Mike was often the 'go to' person. Being relatively new to the area, he was not always able to provide instant answers, but a steep and rapid learning curve led to the formation of new relationships between local community groups and leaders, the local churches and those of other faith groups as they sought to work together and share local resources and knowledge. This continues to be a positive legacy of the fire.

Because of its location, the Methodist church became a focus for people to express their grief, their despair, their anger and their hope. An impromptu shrine for those who had lost their lives sprang from the church's railings – where flowers, candles, teddies, letters, photographs and tributes were left. As a place of silent vigil, it also became the starting point for a monthly silent walk. On the 14th of each month crowds gather outside the Methodist church, and at an appropriate time walk in silence as an act of remembrance, to honour the 72 lives lost and to show support for the community and its continuing search for answers and justice. The latest of these was on Valentine's Day – February 14th 2019.

The church community were described as a 'quiet people' who enabled members of the community to express their grief and anger. Mike felt that providing hospitality for all was one of the most important ministries that the church could offer. People of all faiths and none came to recognise the church as a place where people felt safe, where they could meet and where they could express themselves. This unconditional welcome has resulted in many in the community referring to the Methodist church as 'our church' – be they Christian, Muslim or of no particular religious faith or persuasion. What a testament to the service and sensitivity of those 'quiet people.'

One thing that Mike particularly spoke about was the diversity of Notting Hill, where extremes of wealth and poverty exist side by side. The needs of those who were directly affected by the fire and who lost everything were well known. But many were also indirectly affected, and their needs were less obvious and less well publicised. Mike talked of those who were not able to return to homes adjacent to Grenfell Tower due to safety concerns or damage caused by the fire. They also required much emotional and practical support. Many economic and social problems existed within the wider community before the fire. One of the effects of the fire was to heighten some of these needs, and now support embraces many more than those directly

impacted by the fire. Donations of money have been used to support many people in different ways, and this is a continuing work of the Church. A retiring collection following the Mission supper raised £1758 towards this fund.

Twenty months on, Notting Hill Methodist Church still plays a central role in supporting the community. There have been many new challenges and opportunities – hosting community forums and public meetings, attending acts of remembrance and commemoration, liaising with different agencies and working with other faith and community groups. Grief, anger, a need for answers and justice are still very much embedded in the community, alongside the practical, everyday needs of many who still struggle to cope.

Mike's talk was thought-provoking, interesting and humbling. Thrown in at the deep-end, his sensitivity, dedication and compassion shone through, and there is little doubt that his calling to serve God led him to be the right person, in the right place at the right time.

Helen Bowerman



Personality – and the way we worship

This article is reproduced with permission. It was written by Rev Jan Hofmeyr, the minister at Leatherhead Methodist Church and appeared in their recent newsletter. The ability to acknowledge and harness the diversity in our personalities is an important asset in our Christian lives, and is something reflected in the core values of The Foundry project. [Ed.]

“Our personalities determine a fair deal of who we are and how we behave. Extroverts enjoy being with people and socialising; their psychological ‘batteries’ get charged in their interaction with others. Introverts charge their batteries by being alone and often find themselves becoming drained through too much time with others. Our personalities also influence our spirituality. Extroverts like to connect with other believers. They tend to be ‘joiners’ – joining groups and activities where they benefit from connecting with other Christ followers. Introverts tend to prefer activities where there is opportunity for quiet and reflection.....

.....We need to consider our personality type when we think about our service within the church and the world. Introverts tend to be more suited to activities where they operate on their own or within a small group, for example packing food parcels, doing some administrative tasks or arranging church flowers. Extroverts fit better into bigger groups where there is lots of interaction with others such as running a children’s group or a soup kitchen.

In a recent sermon I mentioned an article by Gordon Macdonald¹ in which he speaks about the different worship ‘languages’ or ‘instincts’ that people tend to have. Some

¹ A contemporary American pastor and theologian
TNV April/May 2019

have an '*aesthetic instinct*' for their worship. They find it most meaningful to worship in an atmosphere of beauty and grandeur, such as a great cathedral. They find meaning in the time-honoured traditions and liturgies of the church.

Some possess an '*experiential instinct*' – they appreciate experiencing a real sense of God's presence and being able to express their worship through the channels of their emotional and physical being – singing, raising hands, clapping, crying. Many in this category will be extroverts.

There is the '*contemplative language*' of worship where people find meaning in quiet and reflection, something suited to the introvert personality.

Macdonald also talks about the '*study instinct*'. For such people the watchword is 'truth'. Their priority is on discovering more and more of the truth about God and the Bible. They are drawn close to God as they enter more deeply into God's nature and the truth of God's Word.

A fifth 'instinct' is the '*activist instinct*'. Such a person is passionate about the needs and injustices in the world. They find great fulfilment and feel close to God when they are addressing such issues in God's name.

A final one is the '*relational instinct*'. This is all about fellowship and harmony within the Body of Christ. This type of person finds the greatest spiritual meaning in bringing people together and deepening unity amongst God's people.

What is your personality? What is your 'worship style' or instinct. We operate best when we work 'with the grain' of our nature, rather than against it; when we fit the 'square peg' of who we are into a 'square hole' rather than trying to force it into a round one!"

Praying together

I have been thinking about how to pray for our church. This was prompted by the Bible reading and the hymn used at the World Day of Prayer on March 1st 2019.

Luke 14:2-24 [J.B. Phillips New Testament]:

Jesus said to him, "Once upon a time, a man planned a big dinner party and invited a great many people. At dinner-time, he sent his servant out to tell those who were invited, 'Please come, everything is ready now.'

But they all, as one man, began to make their excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought some land. I must go and look at it. Please excuse me.' Another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen and am on my way to try them out. Please convey my apologies.' Another one said, 'I have just got married and I am sure you will understand I cannot come.'

So, the servant returned and reported all this to his master. The master of the house was extremely annoyed and said to his servant, 'Hurry out now into the streets and alleys of the town, and bring here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' Then the servant said, 'I have done what you told me, sir, and there are still empty places.' Then the master replied, 'Now go out to the roads and hedgerows and make them come inside, so that my house may be full. For I tell you that not one of the men I invited shall have a taste of my dinner.'"

It seems to me to be a sad story. I want it to end with people who are originally invited being glad to come to the feast and glad to come to church. I also want to see the poor

and lame being part of those flocking and eager to come to church. Maybe I want the impossible. How do you feel about this story?

The verses seem to me to be confusing, focussing in on the excuses people made not to come. One says he has brought land so cannot come, another has brought oxen and so needs to try them out right away and sends apologies. The last one has just got married and cannot leave the new wife and so says I cannot come. The words of one of the songs at the service echoed the words of the Bible story – God invites but each time the person invited says I can't come, and each chorus ended 'Count me out'. By the end I was feeling depressed. So, I would want in prayer to focus on being delighted to come to the feast. Maybe one of the points of the story is to think about the excuses we make to God about following Him.

When I looked on the computer, I discovered that the New Zealand World Day of Prayer did indeed focus on acceptance of the invitation in the call from God, so I have adapted the words that they used for one of their hymns as a prayer poem.

*Thank you God for the invitation to come to the feast
Help us to come willingly and in celebration to God
To answer the call from God that calls to us all.
Be joyful and with thankful hearts to work to build the
kingdom of God.
We are all called to meet with Jesus our Saviour.
God wants us all to come - rich, poor, lame or blind.
No one should fail to at least try this feast.
God wants us all to come.
Accept the invitation and come.
God helps us to feel welcome.
Help us all to be willing to be alongside God, to invite
others to come, and meet God.*

*Help us loving Father God, to just drop all and come along, to accept this invitation.
Amen*

Philippians 1:9-11 [J.B. Phillips New Testament]:

My prayer for you is that you may have still more love—a love that is full of knowledge and wise insight. I want you to be able always to recognise the highest and the best, and to live sincere and blameless lives until the day of Jesus Christ. I want to see your lives full of true goodness, produced by the power that Jesus Christ gives you to the praise and glory of God.

Paul is praying for the congregation at Philippi that they would be full of the love of God and that it would overflow from them. This love would not make a group of people like machines that operate mechanically and not motivated by love. This love would not be a sentimental love but a robust love that comes from heads and from hearts.

The idea of doing this is not to be so pure that people look at the congregation and feel I can never be like that, but that they look at the congregation and feel that they want God to be at work in them. It is about living with God's gifts and forgiveness and using them to build God's kingdom and offer praise and glory to God.

So, praying for Trinity Methodist Church in Woking based on these verses:

My prayer is that we will be full of love. This love will flourish and grow and that we will learn to love as God would like us to love. We will learn to love appropriately. We will need to listen to God to hear the way he wants us to love, to use our heads, our reason, and to test our feelings so that the love we have is sincere, genuine, kingdom building love. It would be a love like the love Jesus showed in his life. This sort of love would produce the fruits of the spirit – love, joy, peace,

patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. This harvest of good fruit would enable us all to show Jesus Christ as a man to follow and get everyone involved in the glory and praise of God. Amen

[Adapted from Philippians and using material from Quiet Spaces BRF Spring 2019]

Ann Dawson

Artaban – the musical

Some years ago Daphne was handed a small book by a fellow member at our previous church in Leatherhead. The book was a novel called 'The other Wise Man' and it was suggested to Daphne that with her experience in theatre she might be able to 'do something with it'.

The book was written by an American, Henry van Dyke, over a hundred years ago. It tells the story of Artaban, who has the vision that a new king will be born who will bring light back into a world filled with corruption, oppression and greed. He sees the star that led the magi to Bethlehem but whilst the others make their progress he is waylaid time and again by encounters with people in need. Overwhelmed by compassion he gives away the three gems which were to be his gift to the new-born king. Obsessed with his quest he despairs at failing to reach the king at his birth but ultimately comes to realise that through his acts of kindness he has fulfilled his mission and found the God who loves him.

It is a story that resonates very strongly in today's world and Daphne was inspired along with her school friend Anne to create a musical out of it. Daphne set about creating the

libretto and Anne wrote song lyrics. Another friend, Rick, is a rock guitarist. He had never tackled anything like this before but, in what is probably the most wonderful discovery on this journey, was inspired to write music for 17 songs. And so a rock musical was born.

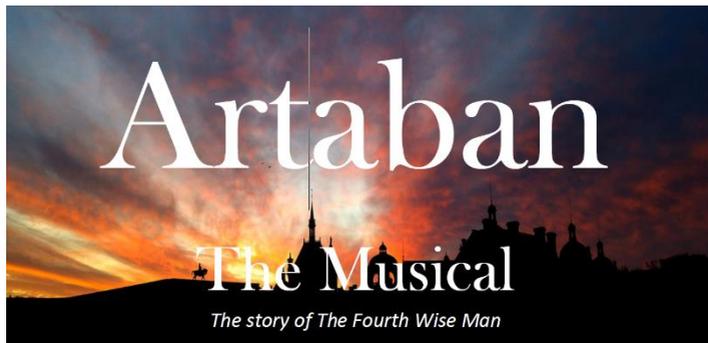
But what to do with it? Two years ago Daphne organised a workshop at Trinity where we tried out the dialogue and played the songs in their early 'sketch' form. The feedback from that helped iron out some glitches but we needed an opening. Anyone involved in the world of theatre knows how laborious is the process of knocking on doors until one opens. This case is no different and there have been a number of dead ends. But eventually through a neighbour in Carters Lane we made contact with a professional rock musician who agreed to arrange the songs, and through him a writer to take the libretto forward and a young theatre director, Joe. All of this has of course cost money, most of which has come from the generosity of Anne's husband!

Everyone who has got involved has caught the vision of this story. It is not overtly Christian, despite its heritage, but it is spiritual. It is a hopeful story in a troubled world, demonstrating the power of love to conquer hate and light to overcome darkness. And so the team are convinced that there is a future for the project. On Joe's advice a week-long workshop was organised in which a 40 minute reduction of the show was rehearsed by five professional actors and a four-piece rock band culminating in a 'showcase' on the Friday afternoon in front of an invited audience. The video of this will be an essential tool for spreading the word.

This all happened at the beginning of March so it is early days. But the hope is that it will lead us to someone who will not only catch the vision but be prepared to invest financially in order to take the project to the next stage. If nothing else comes of Artaban it has been a wonderful experience which Daphne, Anne and Rick plus everyone who has got involved along the way, have gained a lot from. But that doesn't feel

enough. This is a story with a mission - so watch this space!
And if you are interested do visit the website
www.artabanthemusical.co.uk.

David Lander



A recent study by **explorechurches.org** features 2,000 churches across 77 counties for church heritage and numbers of people visiting church buildings. Churches were analysed across eight different categories: interiors, stained glass, churchyards, atmosphere, wildlife, national history, monuments and social history. Visitor facilities were also examined to determine, for the first time, the county that has the highest percentage of “five-star churches” and therefore the best overall visitor experience. Cumbria is best for national history; Norfolk for church interiors; Suffolk for stained glass; Cornwall for wildlife spotting; and London for “five star churches”. The data will not only help tourists locate the best destinations for exploring churches in England, but will also put churches in line with other leisure facilities as tourist destinations in their own right.

Barbara Phillips

New hymns

In the previous issue of TNV we included one of two new hymns that Rev Barrie Tabraham introduced us to at our covenant service in January. Here is the second.

The God of all Eternity

1. The God of all eternity,
unbound by space yet always near,
is present where his people meet
to celebrate the coming year.
2. What shall we offer God today –
our dreams of things that might yet be,
or, with eyes fastened to the past,
our dread of what we cannot see?
3. God does not share our doubts and fears,
nor shrinks from the unknown or strange:
the one who fashioned heaven and earth
makes all things new and ushers change.
4. Let faith or fortune rise and fall,
let apprehension have its day;
those whom God loves, walk unafraid
with Christ for guide and Christ their way.
5. God grant that we, in this new year,
may know and show the Kingdom's face;
and let our work and worship thrive
as signs of hope and means of grace.

John L. Bell & Graham Maule
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Tenneh's Story

(from Christian Aid)



Tenneh plays with her precious baby Ansumana. She blows raspberries on his belly. Lifting her baby up high she beams with joy. Tenneh gave birth to Ansumana three months ago.

Thankfully, he's a happy, bouncy baby. But Tenneh has lost and loved another baby before.

When Tenneh's labour started during her first pregnancy, there was no health centre in the village. Her mum took her to a traditional birth attendant. For the two days of her labour, Tenneh was in agony. She fell unconscious and was bleeding heavily. With very little medical training, the birth attendant was way out of her depth.

In the days and months after her labour, Tenneh felt very weak and her baby wouldn't breastfeed. Tragically, her baby died when he was three months old.

'That day I will never forget,' she recalls. 'I felt sick like I've never been sick before. If God would not have saved me, I would not be alive today.'

Through our partner RADA (Rehabilitation and Development Agency), Christian Aid saw how difficult the situation in Sawula village was and began working to ensure that mums and babies have fullness of life.

RADA has been working locally to help vulnerable women access healthcare, improve hygiene with simple interventions like handwashing and, with your support, build a bigger, better health care centre.

Thankfully, when Tenneh was pregnant a second time, things had changed for good. This time, she had nurse Judith by her side. With her expert love and care, Judith helped Tenneh deliver her baby safely.

Tenneh said: 'During my second labour, I was scared. But nurse Judith was with me, assuring me of everything. When I delivered, I felt so good.'



Tenneh and baby Ansumana receive care from nurse Judith at the community clinic

© Christian Aid/Tom Pilston



Tenneh Bawoh gazes adoringly at baby Ansumana. Tenneh's first pregnancy ended in tragedy but thanks to nurse Judith and medical training you helped to provide, Tenneh's second labour resulted in the safe delivery of her baby boy.

© Christian Aid/Adam Finch

'With the coming of Judith, so many lives have changed,' Tenneh continued. 'We know that with Judith, as long as we see the light at the end of the tunnel, we'll be OK.'

Thanks to nurse Judith and the medical training you helped provide, Tenneh could hold her beautiful baby boy in her arms.

The community in Sawula dream of having a health centre that can meet their needs. The current health centre is the size of a small bedroom. Operations, deliveries and baby checkups all happen in one single room with only two delivery beds.

Nurse Judith works around the clock to meet the needs of mums and young children who come to the clinic. But the need is great, and sometimes she's forced to send people away.

When women come to the clinic at night, there's no light for Judith to use. So she has to ask her patients to bring a torch to see by. In addition to this, there are often not enough drugs at the clinic. Judith sees diseases like malaria and typhoid, especially in children. She has to go on a motorbike or sometimes walk for three hours to collect drugs.

'I need help,' nurse Judith says. 'Women are dying from childbirth, children under five are dying, because of poverty. Please help us.'

For Tenneh, and many mums like her, a new health centre would be like a dream come true: 'We'll dance for three days when we have the new health centre,' she says.

With your support today, we could work alongside Judith's community to build a bigger, better health centre to help more mums like Tenneh give birth safely.

As well as our Plant Sale on 11 May, during Christian Aid Week, 12-18 May, we take part in the door-to-door collection in Horsell village. On Sunday 19 May there will be envelopes in the pews during the morning service if you want to make a contribution.

Speak to Henk (W762715) and join us so women like Jebbeh can celebrate more happy birth days.

Henk Innemee



Creating a climate of change.

Living Lent is an initiative of the Joint Public Issues Group (made up of the Methodist Church, the United Reformed Church, The Baptist Union and the Church of Scotland). It campaigns for peace and justice and this year has launched a campaign using Lent as a catalyst to encourage individuals and churches to focus on issues surrounding climate change.

*"Living lent is about recognising that changing our climate is **not just an activity, but a lifestyle**. We can buy a reusable coffee cup, but not ask who grew our coffee and how much they were paid, or we can refuse a plastic bag whilst buying fast fashion from a child sweatshop. This Lent, we want to explore as a community, what it means to open ourselves up to whole-life change for the climate.*

Living Lent is not just about one decision to change....

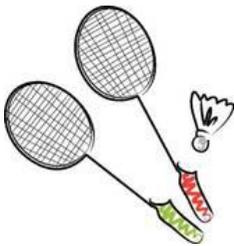
- *It's about **hungering and thirsting for righteousness**, in our relationship with God and with the world.*
- *It's about exploring the **Lenten wilderness**. Lent is a time of self-discipline in order to grow in our discipleship. Our environmental damage is making more of our earth barren wilderness; we should travel there to have our eyes opened for our need for renewal.*
- *It's about **being transformed by and in our relationships**. Doing this together matters, because a community encourages us to challenge and grow.*
- *It's about **our Christian call to love our neighbours**. Climate change impacts the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world already. Our Christian call to bear the burdens of our weakest*

members means that those of us in the affluent West need to recognise our own abuse of the earth's resources.

- ***The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it. God created this planet and declared it very good. The creation – and everyone in it – is precious to God, and this should be reflected in the way we treat it too.***

For more information see www.livinglent.org.

Our Friendly and Social Badminton Group for the Retired but Active has space for a small number of new players.



Even if you haven't played for a long time
Why not give us a try?



We play on
Wednesdays 9.30 –
11.00am
at Trinity Methodist Church
only £2.00 per session.

Just turn up and try, you will be very welcome

On Saturday 6th April **Epworth Choir** will be presenting an evening celebrating many of England's best-known traditional melodies. The programme consists of several folk song arrangements by much-loved composers including Holst, Vaughan Williams and Warlock., including *Afton Water*, *Swansea Town*, *Yarmouth Fair* and *Dashing Away with the Smoothing Iron*. The second half culminates with John Rutter's beautiful suite, *The Sprig of Thyme*, which includes arrangements of *The Keel Row* and *Down by the Sally Gardens*. The Choir will be joined by professional musicians from The Lakeside Clarinet Quartet.

The concert takes place at Holy Trinity Church, Guildford at 7.30pm. For tickets contact the box office on 01483 – 768136 or book online at www.epworthchoir.org.



*"If you want to go fast, go alone;
If you want to go far, go together."*

(African proverb)

Our calling.....

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission

It does this through:



Worship

The Church exists to increase awareness of God's presence and to celebrate God's love



Learning and Caring

The Church exists to help people to grow and learn as Christians, through mutual support and care



Service

The Church exists to be a good neighbour to people in need and to challenge injustice



Evangelism

The Church exists to make more followers of Jesus Christ

What's on at Trinity

Prayer Group	Friday (weekly) 9.45am	Ann, W 770400
Y-Group	Monday (1 st & 3 rd) 8pm	Allison, W 725439
Coffee & Chat	Weds (weekly) 10.30am	Margot, W 762059
Bible Study Fellowship	Weds (weekly) 10.30am	Sarah Jo, W 892067
Bible Study	Friday (monthly) 10.30am	Peggy, W 763605
Phoenix	Friday (fortnightly) 8pm	Joyce, W 722457
Quest Group	Sat (monthly) 9.30 am	John, W 762059
Family Club	Friday 5.00pm	Sue Waddington, 01932 859636
Junior Church	Sunday 10.30am	Sue Waddington, 01932 859636
Messy Church	3 rd Sunday 10am	Sue Waddington, 01932 859636
Trinity Toddlers	Friday 9.30am	Kim Wilson, 07791763241



A note to contributors

It is our practice to publish each edition of TNV on the Trinity website. It is an important source of information about church life at Trinity and something we want to share with others. At the same time we recognise that some contributors may be uncomfortable for their personal details to appear on the internet in this way. We will be happy to omit names and any other personal details in any future issue if requested to do so.

From the Editor

Thanks to all who have helped with the preparation and distribution of this issue of TNV. To the envy of many editors I received more material than could be accommodated in this issue. I hope those contributors whose items have not appeared will understand and hopefully we can include it next time. The next issue will be edited by Jean Normington.

David Lander

**Articles for the June/July issue should be
submitted by**

19th May 2019

**TRINITY NEWS & VIEWS is the magazine of
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH WOKING**

**“Trinity is a welcoming Church seeking to live
in the love of God and share the message of
Jesus Christ”**

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**Contributions to Trinity News & Views can
be written, typed, left in the newsletter
pigeonhole at the Church or emailed to
tnv@trinitywoking.org.uk**